

## § 3135.2

BLM orders in effect on the date of assumption continue to apply to the lessee under the lease. All such obligations will be enforceable by the regional corporation as the lessor until the lease terminates.

(d) In a case in which a conveyance of a mineral estate described in paragraph (b) of this section does not include all of the land covered by the oil and gas lease, the owner of the mineral estate in any particular portion of the land covered by the lease is entitled to all of the revenues reserved under the lease as to that portion including all of the royalty payable with respect to oil or gas produced from or allocated to that portion.

[73 FR 6443, Feb. 4, 2008]

### **§ 3135.2 Under what circumstances will BLM require a suspension of operations and production or approve my request for a suspension of operations and production for my lease?**

(a) BLM will require a suspension of operations and production or approve your request for a suspension of operations and production for your lease(s) if BLM determines that—

(1) It is in the interest of conservation of natural resources;

(2) It encourages the greatest ultimate recovery of oil and gas, such as by encouraging the planning and construction of a transportation system to a new area of discovery; or

(3) It mitigates reasonably foreseeable and significantly adverse effects on surface resources.

(b) BLM will suspend operations and production for your lease if it determines that, despite the exercise of due care and diligence, you can't comply with your lease requirements for reasons beyond your control.

(c) If BLM requires a suspension of operations and production or approves your request for a suspension of operations and production, the suspension—

(1) Stops the running of your lease term and prevents it from expiring for as long as the suspension is in effect;

(2) Relieves you of your obligation to pay rent, royalty, or minimum royalty during the suspension; and

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(3) Prohibits you from operating on, producing from, or having any other beneficial use of your lease during the suspension. However, you must continue to perform necessary maintenance and safety activities.

[67 FR 17886, Apr. 11, 2002]

### **§ 3135.3 How do I apply for a suspension of operations and production?**

(a) You must submit to BLM an application stating the circumstances that are beyond your reasonable control that prevent you from operating or producing your lease(s).

(b) Your suspension application must be signed by—

(1) All record title holders of the lease; or

(2) The operator on behalf of the record title holders of the leases committed to an approved agreement.

(c) You must submit your application to BLM before your lease expires.

(d) Your application must be for your entire lease.

[67 FR 17886, Apr. 11, 2002]

### **§ 3135.4 When is a suspension of operations and production effective?**

A suspension of operations and production is effective—

(a) The first day of the month in which you file the application for suspension or BLM requires the suspension; or

(b) Any other date BLM specifies in the decision document.

[67 FR 17886, Apr. 11, 2002]

### **§ 3135.5 When should I stop paying rental or royalty after BLM requires or approves a suspension of operations and production?**

You should stop paying rental or royalty on the first day of the month that the suspension is effective. However, if there is any production sold or removed during that month, you must pay royalty on that production.

[67 FR 17886, Apr. 11, 2002]

### **§ 3135.6 When will my suspension terminate?**

(a) Your suspension terminates—

(1) On the first day of the month in which you begin to operate or produce on your lease with BLM approval; or

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(2) The date BLM specifies in a written notice to you.

(b) You must notify BLM at least 24 hours before you begin operations or production under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

[67 FR 17886, Apr. 11, 2002]

### **§ 3135.7 What effect does a suspension of operations and production have on the term of my lease?**

(a) *Primary term.* If BLM grants a suspension of operations and production for your lease, the suspension stops the running of the primary term of your lease for the period of the suspension.

(b) *Extended term.* If your lease is in its extended term, a suspension holds your lease in its extended term for the period of the suspension as if it were in production.

[67 FR 17886, Apr. 11, 2002]

### **§ 3135.8 If BLM requires a suspension or grants my request for a suspension of operations and production for my lease, when must I next pay advance annual rental, royalty, or minimum royalty?**

(a) You are not required to submit your next rental or minimum royalty payment until the date the suspension terminates. Therefore, if your suspension begins in month 3 of lease year A and ends in month 2 of lease year B, you must submit your rental payment for lease year B when your suspension ends. BLM will send a written notice to the lessee and operator stating that the suspension is terminated and the date your rental payment for lease year B is due to MMS. BLM's notice also will state when you must pay any minimum royalty due for lease year A. Your minimum royalty for lease year B will be due at the end of that year.

(b) If you remove or sell any production from the lease during the term of the suspension, you must pay royalty on that production.

[67 FR 17886, Apr. 11, 2002]

## **Subpart 3136—Relinquishments, Terminations and Cancellations of Leases**

### **§ 3136.1 Relinquishment of leases or parts of leases.**

A lease may be surrendered in whole or in part by the lessee by filing a written relinquishment, in triplicate, with the Alaska State Office of the Bureau. No filing fee is required. In the case of partial relinquishments, neither the relinquished lands nor the retained lands shall be less than a compact tract of not less than 640 acres. A relinquishment shall take effect on the date it is filed subject to the continued obligation of lessee and the surety to make all payments due, including any accrued rental, royalties and deferred bonuses and to abandon all wells, and condition or remove other facilities on the lands to be relinquished to the satisfaction of the authorized officer.

[46 FR 55497, Nov. 9, 1981, as amended at 53 FR 17359, May 16, 1988]

### **§ 3136.2 Terminations.**

Any lease on which there is no well capable of producing oil or gas in paying quantities shall terminate if the lessee fails to pay the annual rental in full on or before the anniversary date of such lease and such failure continues for more than 30 days after the notice of delinquent rental has been delivered by registered or certified mail to the lease owner's record post office address.

### **§ 3136.3 Cancellation of leases.**

(a) Any nonproducing lease may be canceled by the authorized officer whenever the lessee fails to comply with any provisions of the Acts cited in § 3130.0-3 of this title, of the regulations issued thereunder or of the lease, if such failure to comply continues for 30 days after a notice thereof has been delivered by registered or certified mail to the lease owner's record post office address.

(b) Producing leases or leases known to contain valuable deposits of oil or gas may be canceled only by court order.